

D-2  
EO-60  
File

30 July 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Joint Computer Support

SUBJECT : Review of Major Problems Concerning  
Project ORACLE

The following discussion combines the information received at the July monthly review meeting at AMPEX with other data received during June and July. In addition to the major points presented here, I have also attached a list of minor problems which illustrate the inconsistencies that I have come to accept as normal when dealing with this contractor.

1. A total of 6 new programmers have been or will be added to the project, while 4 experienced people have been shifted elsewhere.

2. The current Software Manager has not been full time on the project. It is now planned to make Mr. Miner the Software Manager and have him continue to bear his heavy program workload.

3. The TMS-2 Manager is not full time on the project, he has additional responsibilities.

4. Most of the recovery functions which are critical to an acceptable system are not scheduled for completion until February or later. The functions of security, monitoring, and maintenance are not scheduled for completion until March or later. The schedule assumes that the system can be thoroughly and successfully tested prior to final acceptance testing in May. This is highly optimistic and will require a marked improvement in the AMPEX performance. The combination of adding new people and allowing for only one month of system testing makes the current delivery date questionable.

5. The AMPEX managers project an image that the work is going well, that there are no problems, and that they resent Agency attempts to tighten up or change their operating methods. Not only is there resentment but a feeling that we are intruding and are creating more problems.

6. We have found that slippage is already occurring by analyzing the little data that has been supplied by AMPEX. It should be noted that AMPEX has not admitted to any such problem. Specifically we received a document from AMPEX dated 3 July 1975 that stated several functions were complete while the software wall charts indicate these same functions require substantial work at some future time.

7. The lack of information concerning planned and past accomplishments makes it difficult for both AMPEX and Agency management to pinpoint problem areas and apply remedial measures.


8. My general impression is that the AMPEX reporting is exclusively for our use and because they don't have a need for it are not concerned with its lack of both continuity and consistency. I have tried to convince them many times that we are not interested in having them do work that is solely for our benefit but that we will be satisfied to use the data they generate for their own internal control.

 STATINTL

COTR, ORACLE

Attachment: a/s

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Some Discrepancies among AMPEX Reports

1. The TMS-2 Documentation plan calls for activity through the month of August 1976. The software wall chart and the hardware labor plan do not indicate staffing through this period. The wall chart shows documentation through April. The hardware labor plan shows nothing beyond May 1976.
2. The TMS-2 Hardware Schedule shows that the tasks TCIF and CHSIM will terminate in July and August 1975, respectively. The Scheduled Labor Expenditure exhibit shows these two tasks to be staffed each month out through April 1976. *This is when the labor deliveries were scheduled*
3. The TMS-2 Hardware Schedule shows that the tasks, TDP software clean-up Diagnostics, <sup>are</sup> is to complete in February 1976. The Scheduled Labor Expenditure exhibit shows this task to be staffed each month out through May 1976.
4. Thirty-one man months of engineering labor is allocated among 7 tasks. There is no indication how much labor is involved with each specific task.
5. The TMS-2 Cost Report/Actuals VS Plan indicates planned total expenditure in June 1976 of \$29,600. The software and hardware labor plans show no staffing for the month of June 1976.